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TELECON

The President/Kissinger

October 23, 1973

6:50 p.m.

K. Mr. President.

N. Were you able to make any sales on that line we were talking about this morning?

K. Yes, I can't tell how they did. I talked to Dinitz for one thing. I talked to a group of Jewish leaders. I call Mansfield.

N. Is he in town?

K. I don't know where they reached him.

N. I know, you never can tell with the White House switchboard. You got Eban. He was all right. How about Congress?

K. I called a number of them. Most of the ones we discussed. I stressed the point of the decision you made. They were all very complimentary. Nobody raised the current issue.

N. Not even Mansfield? He is probably embarrassed. Ted Kennedy is pushing him.

K. Ted Kennedy called.....and said you had settled it all this afternoon.

N. You mean about Sirica? They will want it all for the Committee.

K. They will want everything.

N. No more!

K. I am not sure you....You cannot possibly do more without impairing the Presidency.

N. I told Haig, "Now Al, there can't be any more." It is not possible. The next thing they will go into India, Pakistan, Cambodia, everything we have done. The Foreign Relations Committee will want everything. We are going to stand firm.

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This is a hell of a concession. There is stuff in there that is embarrassing....I think it is good Sirica has to give it to a Grand Jury.

K. I don't know if he is out to get the President....

N. Cox was out to get the President.

K. Cox couldn't have it.

N. Sirica will be more responsible. He is in the Grand Jury.... There has never been a leak on the Grand Jury.

K. Absolutely. A lot of newsmen have sent notes and called in on the Middle East and realize what a role you have played. I think that is an asset.

N. In terms of....compare this with the Cuban confrontation. The Russians would never have called Kennedy. With a twelve to one advantage. But in the Middle East they might have... We have no ships. Moving the aircraft they had no choice...

K. That is my key point.

N. They realize it took some nerve to do this.

K. No question. It was a tremendous victory.

N. The thing you negotiated was fantastic. To change the wording to urging was good. Very good. Well, anyway you need a good nights sleep. Tomorrow you knock them dead.

K. Day after tomorrow. The leadership meeting is tomorrow.

N. No leadership meeting tomorrow. They go Thursday morning at 9:00 and you go in the afternoon, no 11:00. If you give leaders tomorrow they will give it all away, everything is for Thursday. You can sleep in tomorrow.

K. Fine, Mr. President. Good night.

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